



Informational Webinar

FY27 Arts Project Support

(Spring and Fall Cycles)



January 29, 2026





FY27 Arts Project Support

Program Staff



Miah Michaelsen
Executive Director



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Note Regarding Accessibility



If you need accommodations for the grant's guidelines or the application, please get in touch with the IAC's Accessibility Coordinator at accessibility@iac.in.gov or at 317-417-2300.

If you need help with captions or accessibility for this webinar, please send a direct message via chat to André Zhang Sonera.





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About the Indiana Arts Commission



The Indiana Arts Commission (IAC) is an agency of state government, and our funding comes from the Indiana General Assembly and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

A core component to our commitment to investing in the state's vibrant and rich arts and culture sector, are grants, which enrich people and communities through arts organizations and arts projects.





Agenda



1. **APS Program Goals**
2. **Eligibility**
3. **Program Timeline**
4. **Grant Awards, Grantee Requirements and Reporting**
5. **Grant Evaluation Process and Criteria**
6. **IAC Online Grant System Demonstration**
7. **Questions**



Regional Arts Partners

- Region 1 (Greater Gary Area): South Shore Arts
- Region 2 (Greater South Bend Area): Community Foundation of St. Joseph County
- Region 3 (Greater Fort Wayne Area): Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne
- Region 4 (Greater Lafayette Area): The Arts Federation
- Region 5 (Greater Muncie Area): Community Foundation of Randolph County
- Region 6 (Greater Terre Haute Area): Arts Illiana
- Region 7 (Greater Indianapolis Area): Noblesville Creates
- Region 8 (Greater Bloomington Area): Indiana University Arts and Humanities Council
- Region 9 (Greater Columbus Area): Columbus Area Arts Council
- Region 10 (Greater Evansville Area): Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library
- Region 12 (Greater Madison Area): Indiana University Arts and Humanities Council

More information and contract info available at: <https://www.in.gov/arts/programs-and-services/partners/regional-arts-partners/>



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About the Grant Program



Arts Project Support (APS) grants provide funding to support a public-facing short-term arts project or a series of arts activities. Examples include performances; exhibits; arts festivals; arts and cultural planning; arts learning for specific populations such as older adults or youth; public art or some other arts-based or arts-serving activity.

Program Goals

To provide Indiana's people and communities access to arts experiences.

Program Outcomes

- In every Indiana county, people and communities have access to arts experiences.[§]
- Historically underserved geographies and populations benefit.

[§]IAC 2024-2028 Long-Term Strategic Framework Impact





FY26 Changes that Continue in FY27

- Streamlined application criteria and simplified scoring rubric.
- No public grant panels.
- **Fiscal sponsorship** – applicants will need to contact the IAC in advance before beginning an application – which will be initiated with the Eligibility Quiz.
- **Colleges and Universities** - Eligible projects are those that provide either community arts learning experiences for grades Pre-K through 12 on their home campus or elsewhere **or** arts activities in high-priority geographic service counties.
- **501(c)(6) tourism entities and Chambers of Commerce** are eligible.



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Eligibility Tool

Please Note

- All applicants need to submit the Eligibility Tool before beginning the application.
- These questions are intended to help applicants determine whether they may be eligible to apply for APS. If an applicant's responses indicate eligibility, they will be able to access the application.
- All Fiscal Sponsor organizations will be asked to contact the IAC after completing the eligibility tool. Please reach out identifying the sponsored entity and fiscal sponsor. Pending review for eligibility, the applicant will receive access to the application.
- Access to the application does not guarantee final eligibility for the program. The IAC reserves the authority to deem an applicant ineligible at any point in the application process.



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Grant Program Eligibility

Eligible Applicants

- Nonprofit 501(c)(3) arts organizations in any discipline;
- Other 501(c)(3) nonprofit entities that provide arts programming, such as social service organizations, main streets, etc.;
- 501(c)(6) tourism entities or Chambers of Commerce;
- Local units of government;
- Public libraries;
- Public and private schools from Pre-K through 12th grade that provide ***either*** a public performance, artist residency, teaching artists or after-school programming;
- Pre-Approved fiscally sponsored entities; or
- Colleges and universities that provide ***either*** community arts learning experiences for grades Pre-K through 12 on their home campus or elsewhere ***or*** arts experiences in **high-priority geographic service counties**.





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Grant Program Eligibility

Additional Eligibility Requirements

- Applicants must be incorporated with the State of Indiana at the time of application and for the duration of the grant period
- Applicants must also be physically located in Indiana
- The majority of programming, services, or activities, must take place in Indiana and serve and engage Indiana audiences and participants
- Arts Organizations currently receiving an Arts Organization Support grant are ***not eligible*** for Arts Project Support.
- Projects already funded through a current IAC grant are ***not eligible*** for this program





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Spring Program Timeline

Program Milestone	Date
Program Opens for Applications	Thursday, January 8, 2026
Draft Application Review Deadline for New Applicants	Monday, February 23, 2026 by 11:59 PM ET
Application Due	Thursday, March 5, 2026 by 11:59 PM ET*
Funding Notification	By July 1, 2026**
Grant Period	July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027
Final Grant Report Due	Thursday, July 15, 2027 by 11:59 PM ET

*Late applications are not accepted. All applications are final following the submission deadline.

**Subject to change pending notification of federal funding.



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Fall Program Timeline

Program Milestone	Date
Program Opens for Applications	Tuesday, July 7, 2026**
Draft Application Review Deadline for New Applicants	Monday, August 24, 2026 by 11:59 PM ET
Application Due	Thursday, September 3, 2026 by 11:59 PM ET*
Funding Notification	By December 21, 2026
Grant Period	January 1, 2027 – December 31, 2027
Final Grant Report Due	Friday, January 14, 2028 by 11:59 PM ET

*Late applications are not accepted. All applications are final following the submission deadline.

**Subject to change pending notification of federal funding.



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About the Grant Awards

Current Award Amount

- Applicants may request **up to \$4,000**

Matching Funds

- No matching funds required

Grant Payment

- Applicants recommended for funding will receive the full amount requested and pending completion of any outstanding grant reports and/or compliance check, be eligible to be paid in full at the beginning of the grant period
 - The IAC reserves the right to split a grant payment into two payments (75/25) based on compliance check results

Percentage Funded

- The percentage funded will depend on the size of the applicant pool and available funds. The APS program is increasingly competitive.



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Grantee Requirements

- All applicants must be in good standing with the following:
 - The State of Indiana
 - The Indiana Arts Commission
 - Regional Arts Partners
- Enter a binding contract with the State of Indiana
- Receive payment by direct deposit
- Publicly acknowledge funding support through use of IAC and Regional Arts Partner logos and other forms of acknowledgement
- Follow the full requirements as outlined in the program guidelines, the grant contract and the Requirements and Policies for Indiana Arts Commission Grantees



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Grantee Requirements

- Ensure grant funds are used only for eligible expenses
 - Food and beverage, cash awards and prizes, and fundraising are not eligible expenses (see IAC Requirements and Policies for full list)
 - IAC reserves the right to request documentation of grant expenditures and may conduct spot audits to ensure expense eligibility and policy compliance
 - IAC may request a site visit to learn more about the funded project and use of funding
- Monitor record retention and tax responsibilities
 - Grantees must keep all grant-related records for three years from the date of submission of the final report
- Grantee must follow the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requirements and Federal Civil Rights and all other relevant state/federal laws and policies



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Reporting Requirements

- All grantees submit a final report covering topics including, but not limited to:
 - Number of people served
 - Location of activities/services
 - Grant impact
 - Jobs supported
 - Age range of attendees
 - Percent of local vs. non-local attendees
 - Final project budget including use of funds
 - Total Revenue, Expenses, In-Kind





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Evaluation Process

- Applications will be evaluated by how well they meet the criteria
- Evaluation criteria include:
 - Project Quality and Planning
 - Community Benefit
 - Project Management
- Evaluation Criteria and Scoring Rubric are linked in the guidelines and the application



Evaluation Criteria



■ Project Quality and Planning

- Project provides a quality artistic or cultural experience for the community
- Project timeline is defined and aligned with project description

■ Community Benefit

- The applicant can describe the intended audience the project will serve
- The applicant can describe how the community will benefit from the project
- Intentional efforts are made to directly engage underserved populations

■ Project Management

- Project team has the relevant skills and knowledge to administer the project
- Project spending is aligned with the project description





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Application Sections



- **Section 1: Before You Begin** – (info links, tips, deadlines)
- **Section 2: Project Overview** – (project type, dates)
- **Section 3: Project Quality and Planning** – (project description, description of key artistic personnel, artistic documentation upload, timeline)
- **Section 4: Community Benefit** – (community benefit, engaging underserved populations, confirming accessibility and accommodation procedures)
- **Section 5: Project Management** – (project management team, budget)
- **Section 6: Review & Electronic Signature**





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IAC Online Grant System

- All applications are submitted through the IAC Online Grant System
- New applicants must create an account and be logged in to fill out and complete an application
- Returning Applicants: Use same login credentials





Draft Application Review

- Draft Review from Regional Arts Partners (RAP)
 - Available to first time applicants and applicants not currently receiving funds from the IAC
 - Do not submit – leave the application in draft and request a draft review via email from your RAP by:
 - **Spring Cycle: February 23, 2026**
 - **Fall Cycle: August 24, 2026**
 - Draft reviews offer general feedback about application completeness and clarity



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IAC Online Grant System



Britt Fechtman

Data & Grant Systems Manager





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Recommendations

■ Before you start

- First time applicant? Connect with your Regional Arts Partner (RAP)
- Review the APS Program Guidelines in full
- Review the APS Program Evaluation Criteria and Scoring Rubric
- Review the entire application

■ As you complete the application

- Be clear and thorough
- Answer every question
- Provide details to support claims and key narrative points
- Avoid assumptions that application reviewers already know the organization or project



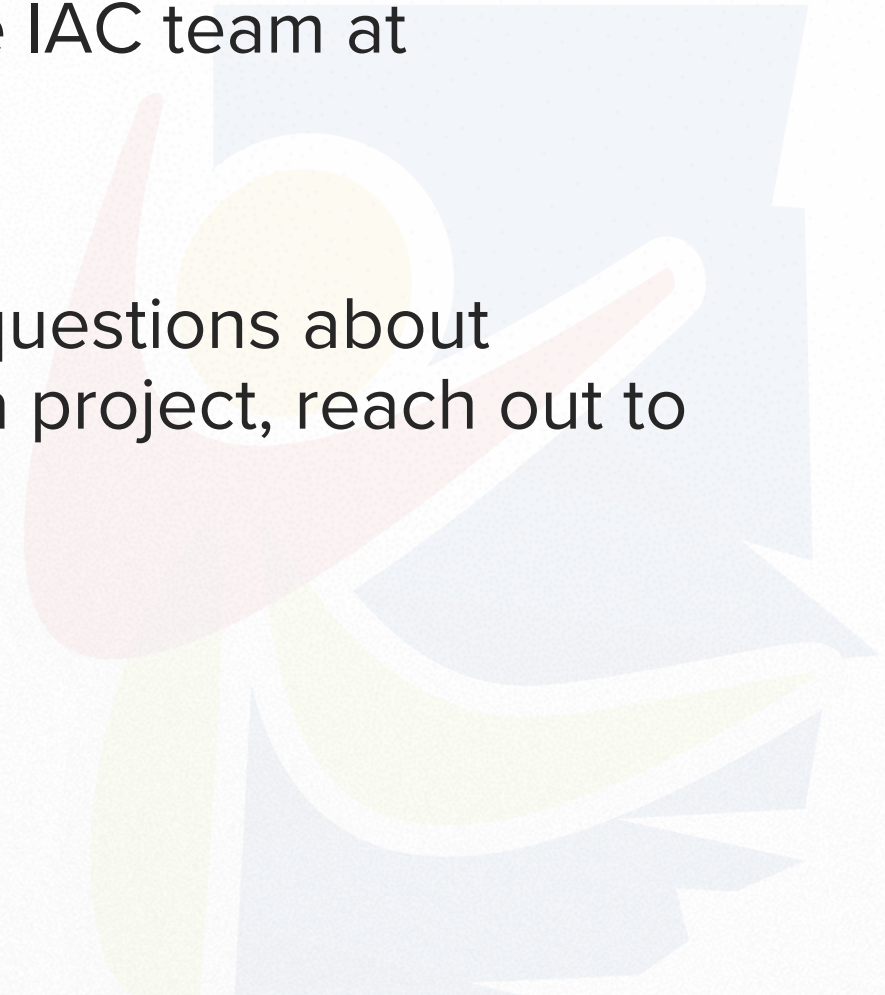


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Program Contacts



- For any program question, contact the IAC team at grantsadmin@iac.in.gov
- For accessibility accommodations or questions about accessibility at an organization or for a project, reach out to accessibility@iac.in.gov



Questions?

